







SPRING FLING 2008

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MerleFest 2008 Fun for Over 76,000 Participants

MerleFest 2008, presented by Lowe's, was enjoyed by over 76,000 participants. Over four days, the Wilkes Community College campus became the home of a wide variety of traditional-plus fans and players.

Preliminary estimates show that MerleFest 2008 overall participation reached 76,708 which is comparable to 2007 participation of 79,412."We are so proud that MerleFest fans remain committed to the event despite current economic conditions and threatening weather that included a storm delay on Saturday," says festival director Ted Hagaman. "Since we opened ticket sales in November we have seen single day ticket sales outpace fourday ticket sales."

MerleFest honors the memory of Eddy Merle Watson and the musical contributions that he and father, Doc Watson, have made. The music of MerleFest

is best explained by Doc himself; "When Merle and I started out we called our music traditional-plus,' meaning the traditional music of the Appalachian

region plus whatever other styles we were in the mood to play. Since the beginning, the people of the college and I have agreed that the music of MerleFest is 'traditional-plus' and this year's line-up shows what that is all about."

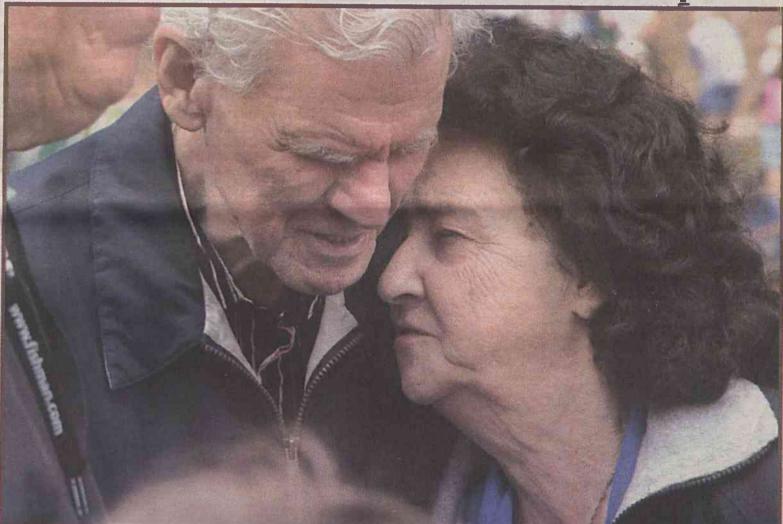


Photo By Brian Barker

Performers at MerleFest 2008 included The Avett
Brothers; Abigail Washburn & The Sparrow Quartet
featuring Bela Fleck, Casey Driessen, & Ben Sollee;
Sam Bush; The Carolina Chocolate Drops; Jerry
Douglas; Levon Helm & The Midnight Ramble on the
Road with Special Guests; Solas "Reunion," with Karan
Casey & John Doyle; Ricky Skaggs & Bruce Hornsby
with Kentucky Thunder; Ralph Stanley & The Clinch
Mtn Boys; Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives;
Rhonda Vincent and The Rage; Dan Tyminski Band;

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